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3. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the selection and degree of differentiation between one or more characteristics is arranged to control the size of the areas in the resultant laminate containing groups of adjacent points in each of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll and which are in registration, in order to avoid the visual appearance of unlaminated patches occurring in the resultant laminate.

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4. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the emboss points of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination points of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll each have a respective pitch therebetween and wherein the one or more selected characteristics include the pitch between the emboss points of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric or lamination points of the point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll.

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5. (amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the pitch of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the pitch of the point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

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6. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the single lamination pattern calender roll has a rotational axis, wherein the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination points of the lamination pattern each have respective axes of alignment extending at a respective angle to the rotational axis of the single lamination pattern calender roll and wherein the one or more selected characteristics include the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern and of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

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7. (amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll are orthogonal to each other.

8. (amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric are varied with respect to the axes of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

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9. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include one of the percentage bond area of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the percentage contact area of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

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10. (amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the percentage bond area of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the percentage contact area of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

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11. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include one of the shape of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the shape of each lamination point of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

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12. (amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the shape of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the shape of each lamination point of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

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13. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include one of the size of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and of the size of each lamination point of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

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14. (amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the size of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the size of each lamination point of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

15. (amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric has a weight of greater than or equal to 50 g/m^2 .

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16. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the non-embossed polymer material has a weight of less than 50 g/m^2 .

17. (amended) A method according to claim 54, further comprising providing a thermoplastic adhesive layer between the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and non-embossed polymer material during lamination.

18. (amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the adhesive layer is provided as a coating on one of said nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and non-embossed polymer material.

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19. (amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein the coating is substantially continuous but provides discrete adhesive bonding points between the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and non-embossed polymer material at the lamination points during lamination.

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21. (amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is a thermoplastic polymer and wherein the single lamination pattern calender roll is a thermobonding calender.

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22. (amended) A method according to claim 21, including passing the thermoplastic adhesive layer and the nonwoven spunbonded thermoplastic polymer fabric through the thermobonding calender such that they are caused to melt together to form an integrated bond.

B18 23. (amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein the non-embossed polymer material is a thermoplastic polymer and is also caused to melt to form part of the integrated bond.

30. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the spunbonded polymer fabric comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester and polyamide.

31. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the non-embossed polymer material comprises a thin film.

32. (amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein the thin film comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester and polyamide.

B19 33. (amended) A method according to claim 54, further comprising providing a further layer between the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the non-embossed polymer material.

34. (amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein the further layer is one of a microfibre layer and a continuous thin film.

35. (amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the single lamination pattern calender roll has a rotational axis, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric has oppositely facing surfaces of which a first oppositely facing surface is presented to the single lamination pattern calender roll and has an emboss pattern which is non-symmetrical about a line transverse to the rotational axis of the single lamination calender roll, and wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is turned over prior to lamination to present to the single lamination calender roll a second alternative oppositely facing surface with an emboss pattern having different pattern characteristics to that presented when the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is not turned over.

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37. (amended) A method according to claim 35, wherein the turned over embossed pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is sufficiently different to the non-turned over embossed pattern to provide under the same lamination conditions a different pressure distribution across the laminate.

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38. (amended) A method according to claim 37, wherein the difference in pressure distributions leads to perforation of the laminate when the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is turned over and non-perforation when it is not turned over.

Please ~~add~~ the following new claims:

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54. (new) A method of laminating a first material having an emboss pattern formed thereon to a second material using a point-lamination pattern in a lamination process, characterised in that the first material is a nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric having a plurality of emboss points that are formed under heat and pressure and that form an emboss pattern, in that the second material is a non-embossed polymer material, in that the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric with the emboss pattern and the non-embossed polymer material are brought together and laminated to one another using a single lamination pattern calender roll of which the lamination pattern has a plurality of lamination points, and in that one or more characteristics of the two patterns is selected and differentiated in order to control, during lamination, the amount of point mis-registration between the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric with the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll and thereby the occurrence of unlaminated patches in the resultant laminate.

55. (new) A method according to claim 3, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric has a weight of greater than or equal to 50 g/m².

56. (new) A method of laminating a first material having an emboss pattern formed thereon to a second material using a point-lamination pattern in a lamination process, characterised in that the first material is a nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric having a plurality of emboss points that are formed under heat and pressure and that form an emboss pattern, in that the second material is a non-embossed polymer material, in that the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric with the emboss pattern and the non-embossed polymer material are brought together and laminated to one another using a single lamination pattern calender roll of which the lamination pattern has a plurality of lamination points and which has a rotational axis, in that the emboss points of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination points of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll each have a respective pitch therebetween, in that the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination points of the lamination pattern each have respective axes of alignment extending at a respective angle to the rotational axis of the single lamination pattern calender roll, in that one or more characteristics of the two patterns is selected and differentiated in order to control, during lamination, the amount of point mis-registration between the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric with the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll and thereby the occurrence of unlaminated patches in the resultant laminate; and in that the one or more selected characteristics is one of:

the pitch between the emboss points of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric or lamination points of the point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll;

the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric or of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll;

the percentage bond area of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric or of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll;

the shape of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric or of each lamination point of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll; and

the size of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric or of the size of each lamination point of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

57. (new) A method according to claim 56, wherein the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll are orthogonal to each other.

58. (new) A method according to claim 56, wherein the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric are varied with respect to the axes of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

59. (new) A method according to claim 56, wherein the percentage bond area of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the percentage contact area of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

60. (new) A method according to claim 56, wherein the shape of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the shape of each lamination point of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

61. (new) A method according to claim 56, wherein the size of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the size of each lamination point of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

62. (new) A method according to claim 56, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric has a weight of greater than or equal to 50 g/m² and wherein the visual appearance of unlaminated patches occurring in the resultant laminate is avoided.

63. (new) A method according to claim 56, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric has oppositely facing surfaces of which a first oppositely facing surface is presented to the single lamination calender roll and has an emboss pattern which is non-symmetrical about a line transverse to the rotational axis of the single lamination pattern calender roll, and wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is turned over prior to lamination to present to the single lamination calender roll a second alternative oppositely facing surface with an emboss pattern having different characteristics to that presented when the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is not turned over.

64. (new) A method according to claim 63, wherein the turned over embossed pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is sufficiently different to the non-turned over embossed pattern to provide under the same lamination process conditions a different pressure distribution across the laminate.

65. (new) A method according to claim 64, wherein the difference in pressure distributions leads to perforation of the laminate when the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is turned over and non-perforation when it is not turned over.

66. (new) A laminate including a first material having an emboss pattern formed thereon and a second material laminated to the first material using a point-lamination pattern in a lamination process, characterised in that the first material is a nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric having a plurality of emboss points that are formed under heat and pressure and that form an emboss pattern, in that the second material is a non-embossed polymer material, in that the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric with the emboss pattern and the non-embossed polymer material are brought together and laminated to one another using a single lamination pattern calender roll of which the lamination pattern has a plurality of lamination points, and in that one or more characteristics of the two patterns is selected and differentiated in order to control, during

lamination, the amount of point mis-registration between the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric with the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll and thereby the occurrence of unlaminated patches in the resultant laminate.

67. (new) A laminate according to claim 66, wherein the selection and degree of differentiation between the one or more characteristics is arranged such that areas where emboss points of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric are substantially in register with lamination points of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll are smaller than 25 mm² to avoid the visual appearance of unlaminated patches including blistering occurring in the resultant laminate.

68. (new) A laminate according to claim 66, wherein the selection and degree of differentiation between one or more characteristics is arranged to control the size of the areas in the resultant laminate containing groups of adjacent points in each of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll and which are in registration, in order to avoid the visual appearance of unlaminated patches occurring in the resultant laminate.

69. (new) A laminate according to claim 66, wherein the emboss points of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination points of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll each have a respective pitch therebetween and wherein the one or more selected characteristics include the pitch between the emboss points of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric or lamination points of the point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll.

70. (new) A laminate according to claim 69, wherein the pitch of the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the pitch of the point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

71. (new) A laminate according to claim 66, wherein the calender roll has a rotational axis, wherein the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination points of the lamination pattern each have respective axes of alignment extending at a respective angle to the rotational axis of the single lamination pattern calender roll and wherein the one or more selected characteristics include the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern and of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

72. (new) A laminate according to claim 71, wherein the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll are orthogonal to each other.

73. (new) A laminate according to claim 71, wherein the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric are varied with respect to the axes of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

74. (new) A laminate according to claim 66, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include one of the percentage bond area of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the percentage contact area of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

75. (new) A laminate according to claim 74, wherein the percentage bond area of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the percentage contact area of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

76. (new) A laminate according to claim 66, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include one of the shape of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the shape of each lamination point of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

77. (new) A laminate according to claim 76, wherein the shape of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the shape of each lamination point of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

78. (new) A laminate according to claim 66, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include one of the size of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the size of each lamination point of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

79. (new) A laminate according to claim 78, wherein the size of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the size of each lamination point of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

80. (new) A laminate according to claim 67, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric has a weight of greater than or equal to 50 g/m².

81. (new) A laminate according to claim 66, wherein the single lamination pattern calender roll has a rotational axis, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric has oppositely facing surfaces of which a first oppositely facing surface is presented to the single lamination calender roll and has an emboss pattern which is non-symmetrical about a line transverse to the rotational axis of the single lamination pattern calender roll, and wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is turned over prior to lamination to present to the single lamination calender roll a second alternative oppositely facing surface with an emboss pattern having different characteristics to that presented when the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is not turned over.

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82. (new) A laminate according to claim 81, wherein the turned over embossed pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is sufficiently different to the non-turned over embossed pattern to provide under the same lamination process conditions a different pressure distribution across the laminate.

83. (new) A laminate according to claim 35, wherein the difference in pressure distributions leads to perforation of the laminate when the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is turned over and non-perforation when it is not turned over.

REMARKS

Election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1 to 38 and 45 is hereby affirmed, as requested by the examiner in paragraph 3 of the office action. Newly added claims 54-83 are believed to be directed to the same inventive concept as the elected claims.

Claims 2-8, 10, 14, 30 and 34-38 are rejected by the examiner as being indefinite. The examiner has requested that the indefinite rejected claims should be amended to conform with US drafting practice. In claim 2, the examiner has objected to the phrase "*maximise the amount of point mis-registration between the two patterns.*" Claim 2 has been amended by including specific wording from the specification on page 8, lines 1 to 6 which it is submitted overcomes the examiner's objection.